

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS STATISTICS.

No. 2. June 23, 1931.

Issued by T. Waites, Government Statistician.

SECTION A.—RAINFALL AND PRODUCTION.

1. RAINFALL IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Index showing Weighted Average Ratio of Actual to Normal Rainfall.
(Normal rainfall for each month = 100.)

Month.	Sheep Districts.		Wheat Districts.		Dairying Districts.	
	1930.	1931.	1930.	1931.	1930.	1931.
January	75	55	44	69	103	48
February	43	37	36	37	68	181
March	64	255	48	270	148	123
April	68	210	67	204	132	215
May	90	280	82	312	174	74

(Normal rainfall means the average over a long period of years.)

The seasonal prospects throughout practically the whole of the State are very favourable. In parts of the wheat belt, however, an excess of rain has been reported.

2. WOOL.

Seasonal conditions indicate a substantial recovery in the wool production of the State in 1931-32, after the decline of 6½ per cent. in 1930-31. The Australian selling programme for 1931-32 provides for an increase of 8 per cent. over 1930-31. In this increase New South Wales will share fully. Owing to diminution in the numbers of sheep since 1927, however, it is unlikely that this State's production will be a record in 1931-32, even if the average clip per sheep exceeds previous record averages. The production of the record year (1926-27) exceeded that of 1930-31 by 16 per cent.

The selling season in Sydney terminated on 17th June, 1931, and there is practically no carry over of unsold wool. The new season's sales in Sydney will commence on 31st August, and the next London series on 7th July.

SYDNEY WOOL SALES.

Month of.	Number of bales sold.*			Amount realised for wool sold.*		
	1929.	1930.	1931.	1929.	1930.	1931.
January	138,314	99,715	117,022	£3,129,820	£1,294,508	£1,098,667
February	129,463	144,718	181,824	2,762,640	1,728,739	2,138,391
March	159,906	87,694	134,472	3,375,461	1,031,978	1,908,022
April	98,430	55,329	71,016	1,970,445	717,199	880,901
May	57,098	161,718	28,584	944,538	2,310,886	295,482
Eleven months ended 31st May	1,127,238	991,952	1,014,148	24,781,149	13,640,251	11,515,091

Number of Bales in Store Unsold.

In store, 31st May (current clip)	28,188	106,207	26,858
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* Including old season's wool in some cases.

3. WHEAT.

Reports indicate that the area sown with wheat in New South Wales will probably revert to normal this season after the sudden expansion last year. In some districts operations have been retarded by rain and sowings will be late and perhaps considerably curtailed.

Despite unsettled world conditions, oversea shipments of the current crop have been unusually rapid. The shipments in May were, however, considerably less than in March or April.

WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTED OVERSEA FROM NEW SOUTH WALES (DIRECT).

Month.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
	£	£	£
December... ..	1,148,769	187,388	487,866
January... ..	1,205,737	122,541	432,109
February... ..	792,665	126,663	447,882
March... ..	939,311	135,683	923,968
April... ..	629,901	120,272	525,948
May... ..	227,616	142,820	489,707
Totals for six months—			
Value... ..	£4,943,999	£835,367	£3,307,480
	Equivalent in bushels of wheat.		
Quantity... ..	20,728,518	3,310,200	28,098,040

The exports for the six months ended 31st May, 1931, include 23,581,432 bushels of grain and 948,488 tons of flour.

94.849
Allowing for carry-over from last season (5,159,000 bushels) and deducting wheat despatched interstate, the surplus exportable oversea direct from New South Wales (wheat and flour) in the current season is in the vicinity of 48,000,000 bushels, so that the exportable surplus remaining is about 20,000,000 bushels.

4. BUTTER.

The production of butter (in factories) in New South Wales for the ten months ended 30th April, 1931, was 92,459,072 lb. as compared with 87,722,719 lb. for the corresponding period last year—an increase of 4,736,353 lb. or 5.4 per cent.

Month.	Output of Butter (New South Wales Factories.)		Value of Butter exported (New South Wales).	
	1930.	1931.	1930.	1931.
	lb.	lb.	£	£
January... ..	11,256,703	9,912,639	219,763	144,211
February... ..	11,226,810	10,662,140	281,416	230,461
March... ..	11,621,689	12,384,094	165,806	313,396
April... ..	9,604,033	10,813,135	73,431	235,051
May... ..	7,514,365	.....	24,513	128,752
Five months... ..	51,223,600	.....	764,929	1,051,871

The production for April is the largest ever recorded for that month in New South Wales.

5. COAL.

In the absence of monthly records of production, the best available indications of trends in the industry are provided by railway haulings and exports :—

Month.	Coal Hauled by Government Railways.		Coal Exported from N.S.W.†
	1928.	1931.	1931.
	tons.	tons.	tons.
January	546,533	296,226	167,139
February	502,801	336,764	192,809
March	522,006	366,620	218,195
April	427,279	282,425	*135,300
May	572,078	*395,000	*224,200
Five months ended 31st May ...	2,570,697	*1,677,035	*937,643

* Approximate.

† Oversea and Interstate cargo and bunker.

The quantities hauled by rail exclude coal used by the Railway Department and coal shipped or used in New South Wales without being hauled over Government railways.

The low figure for January, 1931, was preceded by a decline between October and December, 1930. The diminution in April is in some degree seasonal and probably traceable to the occurrence of holidays in the month.

The total oversea and interstate trade for the three months ended 31st March, 1931, was 578,143 tons as compared with 403,871 tons in the same period last year (when most of the large northern mines were closed), and approximately 900,000 tons in March quarter, 1928.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

An endeavour is being made to obtain data as to factory sales and employment monthly.

6. BUILDING INDUSTRY.

PERMITS TO ERECT NEW BUILDINGS.

Month of April.				Month of May.				Three months ended 31st March.	
City.	Suburbs.		City.	Suburbs.		Country Municipalities.			
	No.	Value of Buildings.		No.	Value of Buildings.	No.	Value of Buildings.		
No.		£	No.		£		£		
1929	5	689	713,296	12	736	894,358	1,133	878,021	
1930	7	213	245,560	4	191	223,167	764	625,395	
1931	6	37	40,051	3	45	42,871	297	173,473	

Figures as to permits to erect new buildings should show in advance the trend in the building industry. Suburban building permits were slightly greater in May than in April, though both months were substantially below the average of the first three months of 1931.

SECTION B.—TRADE AND SHIPPING.

7. VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

To and from New South Wales direct Oversea.

	Month of May.			Eleven Months ended 31st May.		
	Imports.	Exports.*	Excess of Exports.*	Imports.	Exports.*	Excess of Exports.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1929 ...	5,079,170	3,455,982	(—) 1,623,188	57,979,609	46,901,560	(—) 11,078,049
1930 ...	3,740,065	3,262,035	(—) 478,030	54,401,817	29,651,410	(—) 24,750,407
1931 ...	1,319,737	2,098,794	†779,057	24,390,209	28,619,601	†4,229,392

(—) Denotes excess of Imports.

† See notes below.

* Excluding gold specie as follows :—

	1929.	1930.	1931.
Month of May ...	£ 5,000	£ 13,000	£ ...
Eleven months ended 31st May ...	141,994	3,711,800	41,056

The values of imports represent the cost f.o.b. port of export plus 10 per cent., and are recorded in English currency. The values of exports are the values in the principal markets of New South Wales, less bonuses on butter, &c., and are recorded in Australian currency. The excess of exports marked † above is consequently overstated. Imports were £63,441 greater, and exports £390,646 less in May, 1931, than in the previous month.

8. TONNAGE OF CARGO DISCHARGED AND SHIPPED—ALL PORTS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Three Months ended 31st March.	Discharged.			Shipped.		
	Oversea.	Interstate.	Total.	Oversea.	Interstate.	Total.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1929 ...	589,764	402,879	992,643	718,108	542,497	1,260,605
1930 ...	525,068	349,136	874,204	203,662	546,638	750,300
1931 ...	272,258	230,518	502,776	618,220	473,754	1,091,974
Month of April, 1931.	73,629	69,815	143,444	172,454	135,713	308,167

Inwards cargo shows a marked decrease, both from interstate and overseas ports. Outwards cargo overseas shows a marked expansion compared with the position a year ago, although interstate cargo outwards has declined. The rapid movement of wool and wheat this season, coupled with the large volume of wheat, is reflected in the increase in overseas shipments. The cargo movements for April, 1931, were below the average of the preceding three months.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE.

Efforts are being made to obtain data as to the volume of wholesale and retail business.

SECTION C.—TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC.

9. RAILWAYS.

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS REVENUE AND BUSINESS.

		Month of April.			Three months ended 31st March.		
		Gross Revenue.	Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.	Gross Revenue.	Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.
		£	thousands.	thousands.	£	thousands.	thousands.
1929	...	1,609,874	137,470	13,145	4,874,495	453,839	37,170
1930	...	1,441,947	112,683	11,546	4,311,254	372,940	36,491
1931	...	1,246,009	133,301	9,972	3,747,818	388,931	30,683

*Goods and live stock. Ton-mileage represents the weight times the distance (miles) it was carried.

The passenger mileage in March quarter, 1931, was approximately 19 per cent. less than in March quarter, 1930; the corresponding decrease in passenger journeys was approximately 16 per cent. The number of passenger journeys, therefore, does not fully reflect the diminution in coaching traffic.

The financial results of operations were:—

Four months ended 30th April.				Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.
				£	£	£
1929	...	...	...	6,484,369	5,083,236	1,401,133
1930	...	...	...	5,753,201	4,863,951	889,250
1931	...	...	...	4,993,827	4,142,727	851,100

* Interest on loan capital is not included as working expenses.

10. TRAMWAYS.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT TRAMWAYS.

Month. (1931).	Sydney and Suburbs.			Newcastle and Suburbs.		
	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers carried.	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers carried.
	£	£	thousands.	£	£	thousands.
January	270,304	6,865	22,833	13,393	(—) 5,228	1,098
February	220,155	6,226	20,951	11,670	(—) 4,245	1,470
March	241,423	1,117	22,936	12,516	(—) 6,280	1,605
April	237,012	(—) 374	22,144	11,986	(—) 3,443	1,531
May	233,293	†	21,700	12,990	†	1,635

* Interest on loan capital is not included as working expenses. (—) Denotes excess of working expenses over earnings.

† Figures not available at date of publication.

The combined operations of both systems showed £69,463 net excess of earnings in March quarter, 1930, as compared with £1,545 net excess of working expenses in March quarter, 1931. The total numbers of passengers carried in the respective quarters were 77,850,000 and 70,893,000.

11. MOTOR OMNIBUS TRAFFIC.

METROPOLITAN TRAFFIC AREA.

Year ended 30th June.	Revenue.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.	Passengers carried.
	£	£	Thousands.
1929	1,446,876	153,439	89,845
1930	1,540,455	142,335	94,482

The number of passengers carried in the three months ended 31st March, 1930, was 24,199,797, as compared with 23,091,652 in the corresponding quarter of 1929. Quarterly returns are in course of compilation.

12. MOTOR VEHICLES.

NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES (N.S.W.), AS AT VARIOUS DATES.

Class.	31st March—			30th April, 1931.	31st May, 1931.
	1929.	1930.	1931.		
Cars	158,864	171,492	158,833	156,580	155,761
Lorries	38,180	43,371	41,088	40,552	40,255
Cycles	31,028	30,198	26,345	25,938	25,778

Decrease.

	Cars.	Lorries.	Cycles.
Month of April, 1931	2,253	536	407
Month of May, 1931	819	297	160
Three months ended 31st March, 1931 ...	5,336	1,190	913

The diminution in the number of all three classes of motor vehicles registered was greater in April, 1931, than the average for the preceding three months, but the diminution in May was less than for any month during the current year.

The number of new cars registered during the four weeks ending on the first Tuesday in June, 1931, was 237 compared with 797 and 2,086 in the corresponding periods of 1930 and 1929 respectively.

SECTION D.—FINANCIAL.

13. TRADING BANKS—ADVANCES AND DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).

TOTAL (including Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and including Government Business).

March Quarter.				Deposits.	Advances, &c., and Government Securities.	Excess of Deposits over Advances, &c.
				thousand £	thousand £	thousand £
1929	...	...	...	134,855	138,085	(—) 3,230
1930	...	...	...	130,247	152,103	(—) 21,856
1931	...	...	...	124,295	139,374	(—) 15,079

(—) Denotes excess of advances.

14. PRIVATE BUSINESS IN PRIVATE BANKS (N.S.W.).

(Excluding Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and excluding Government Deposits and Government Securities in Private Trading Banks.)

March Quarter.	Deposits.			Advances, &c.	Excess of Deposits over Advances.	Ratio of Advances to Deposits.
	Bearing Interest (Fixed).	Not Bearing Interest (Current).	Total.			
	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	per cent.
1929	62,081	49,185	111,266	98,358	12,908	88.4
1930	64,145	42,426	106,571	110,681	(—) 4,110	103.9
1931	65,408	36,730	102,138	100,101	2,037	98.0

The ratio of advances to deposits increased to abnormal proportions in March quarter, 1930, but improved slightly in March quarter, 1931.

The steady decline in deposits has been entirely in deposits at current account. Fixed deposits have increased in each of the two yearly intervals shown.

15. INTER-BANK CLEARINGS (SYDNEY).

(Value of cheques drawn on a Bank other than the Bank in which they were Deposited.)

					Month of May.	Five months ended 31st May.
					£	£
1929	...	...	...	...	89,723,757	443,540,947
1930	...	...	...	...	76,684,746	382,737,621
1931	...	...	...	...	67,844,230	382,345,522

For the three months ended March the total clearings were approximately the same in 1931 as in 1930; in April there was an increase, followed by an almost equal decrease in May, but the increase has appeared again in progress totals for June.

While the more rapid disposals of wool and wheat have tended to sustain business activity and the volume of clearings in the current year, abnormal transactions on account of Governments and Savings Banks have been much greater in 1931 than in 1930. The amount of clearings has been swollen thereby, consequently the unadjusted figures do not indicate the relative volume of commercial and industrial activity for the current year. Elimination of the abnormal transactions mentioned would probably reveal some diminution in the volume of ordinary trade clearings even when allowance is made for the lower level of prices ruling in 1931.

16. REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.).

			Month of May.		Five months ended 31st May.	
			Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.	Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.
			£	£	£	£
1930	...	...	2,800,000*	3,204,768	14,707,166*	18,594,098
1931	...	...	887,701	2,012,968	5,553,904	9,768,257

* Approximate.

Sales in the month of May, 1931, were appreciably smaller than the average for the preceding four months, while mortgages were a little larger. The amount of considerations of sales is approximately 38 per cent., and the amount of mortgages approximately 52 per cent. of the corresponding figures for last year. This decrease is partly due to a lower level of values.

17. LIENS ON CROPS AND WOOL AND MORTGAGES ON LIVESTOCK (N.S.W.).

			Month of May.			Five months ended 31st May		
			Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.	Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.
			£	£	£	£	£	£
1930	...	...	571,848	587,493	300,459	2,909,719	1,528,226	1,238,305
1931	...	...	652,017	514,240	219,793	3,435,993	2,319,417	1,413,929

Despite the lower level of values, the amounts involved in liens to date are much greater in 1931 than in 1930. The total is £7,169,000 for the first five months of 1931 compared with £5,677,000 for the same period last year. The amount of liens on wool and livestock for May, 1931, was rather less than for May last year.

The numbers involved in liens and mortgages registered during the five months ended 31st May, were:—

Five months ended 31st May.		Number of Crop Liens.	Number of Sheep subject to Liens on Wool.*	Number of Livestock under Mortgage.		
				Sheep.*	Cattle.	Horses.
1930	...	8,041	4,323,195	2,794,648	38,378	8,339
1931	...	7,922	6,498,683	5,314,608	56,023	13,348

* In many cases sheep are included under both headings.

The number of crop liens showed an increase in the first three months of 1931 as compared with 1930, followed by decreases in April and May.

18. BANKRUPTCIES.

Sequestrations and Deeds of Arrangement, New South Wales.

Year.			Month of May.		Five months ended 31st May.	
			Number.	Liabilities.	Number.	Liabilities.
				£		£
1930	...	...	122	231,599	453	813,027
1931	...	...	113	207,854	618	1,171,910

Although there was a large increase in bankruptcies during the first three months of 1931, the transactions for April and May, 1931, were equal in number to those of April and May, 1930, while the total liabilities were 8 per cent. less.

SECTION E.—GENERAL.

19. UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

				Month of April (a).	Middle of Quarter ended 31st March (b).
				Number.	Per cent.
1929	...	...	...	28,500	9.7
1930	...	...	...	50,000	16.3
1931	...	...	...	115,000	29.2
				March, 1931.	December Quarter, 1930.
				110,000	26.3

(a) Estimate as at end of month by Director of State Labour Exchange—representing approximate total number unemployed.

(b) Estimate by Commonwealth Statistician representing proportion of unemployed members to total membership in unions reporting.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF WAGES PAID AND INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT.

Data are being sought under these headings.

20. POPULATION, MIGRATION, AND MARRIAGE RATE (N.S.W.).

Three Months ended 31st March.		Total Increase in in Population during Quarter.	Net Migration during Quarter.		Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths).	Marriages.	
			Interstate.	Oversea.		Number.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
1929	...	11,847	(+) 3,742	(+) 411	7,694	4,699	7.68
1930	...	6,052	(+) 498	(—) 2,215	7,769	4,813	7.77
1931*	...	4,098	(—) 957	(—) 2,549	7,604	3,840	6.13

(+) Denotes net immigration. (—) Denotes net emigration.

* Preliminary figures subject to revision.

These figures indicate an increase in emigration both interstate and oversea. The number of marriages and the marriage rate are generally considered to be a reflex of economic conditions in the State.

21. CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY.

Index of Monthly Sales of Gas and Electricity (Sydney).*
(Based on number of units each equal to 3,412 British Thermal Units.)

Month.	Average, 1929 to 1931.	1929.	1930.	1931.
January	1,000	1,031	1,014	955.
February	1,000	1,044	981	975
March	1,000	1,015	1,010	975
April	1,000	1,035	1,004	967
May	1,000	1,049	998	953
Average (5 months) ...	1,000	1,035	999	964

* Tentative estimates only based on incomplete records pending final determination of basis to be adopted.

22. WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911=100 in all cases.

Date.	Wool. †	Wheat.	Butter.	Non-Rural.‡	All Commodities.
1911	100	100	100	100	100
1929*	162	140	204	181	186
1930—July	113	109	184	173	173
August	112	108	184	175	173
September	111	99	167	175	164
October	97	77	155	174	158
November	99	74	144	176	157
December	93	69	136	177	153
1931—January	91	62	151	175	153
February	106	61	167	174	152
March	120	61	170	173	153
April	121	65	153	.....	.....
May†	114	71	151	.....	.....

* Average for year.

† Approximate, subject to revision.

‡ Includes only those primary, manufactured and imported commodities which are included in the index for all commodities. Highly manufactured articles are not included. The individual items are listed on page 488 of the "Official Year Book of New South Wales" for 1920.

The table shows the marked disparity between the relative price levels of the principal rural products and the non-rural group, which has been such a prominent feature of price movements since the early part of last year.

A feature of the table is the virtual stability in prices of non-rural products since last July

STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX.

An index of the prices of industrial shares on Sydney Stock Exchange is in course of compilation.

23. WORLD PRICE LEVELS.

After showing a tendency to assume greater stability, and even to manifest some recovery in February and March, 1931, average wholesale price levels in Great Britain and the United States declined further in April and May. During May the *Economist* index for Great Britain fell by nearly 3 per cent., and the Irving Fisher index for the United States fell by 3.7 per cent.

24. PRICES OF METALS.

Average Monthly Spot Prices for Metals (London Exchange).

Date.	Silver (Standard).	Lead.	Spelter.	Tin (Standard).	Copper (Standard).
	per oz.	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.
1930.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
April	1 7 55	18 6 10	18 2 0	162 14 8	62 3 3
1931.					
January	1 1 8 1	13 17 9	12 18 7	115 17 7	44 19 7
February	1 0 43	13 9 11	12 10 0	118 0 1	45 8 4
March	1 1 52	13 4 10	12 8 8	121 18 5	44 17 2
April	1 1 12	12 9 10	11 11 11	112 16 9	42 14 8
May	1 0 86	11 12 8	10 13 7	104 8 0	38 18 10
June (1st to 18th) ...	1 0 31	10 18 10	10 9 0	101 14 11	34 17 6

After some signs of stability and even recovery in February and March, there was a marked decline in April and May, which continued into June, with signs of recovery in the second week of that month.

NOTICE.

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As space will not permit of repetition of matter, copies should be filed for reference.

Bureau of Statistics, 36 Young-street, Sydney.

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